

# Research & Recovery Round Up Whitepaper Series: Rural-urban differences in ELA growth and broadband access during the pandemic

## Briefing for the NC State Board of Education

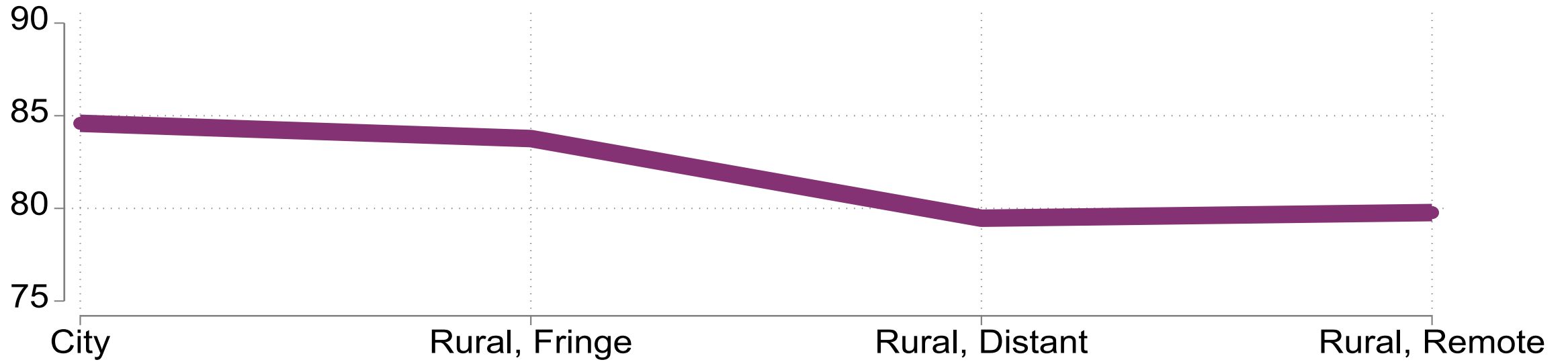
Dr. Andrew Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation, [andrew.smith@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:andrew.smith@dpi.nc.gov)

Mr. Calen Clifton, Research Analyst, [calen.clifton@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:calen.clifton@dpi.nc.gov)

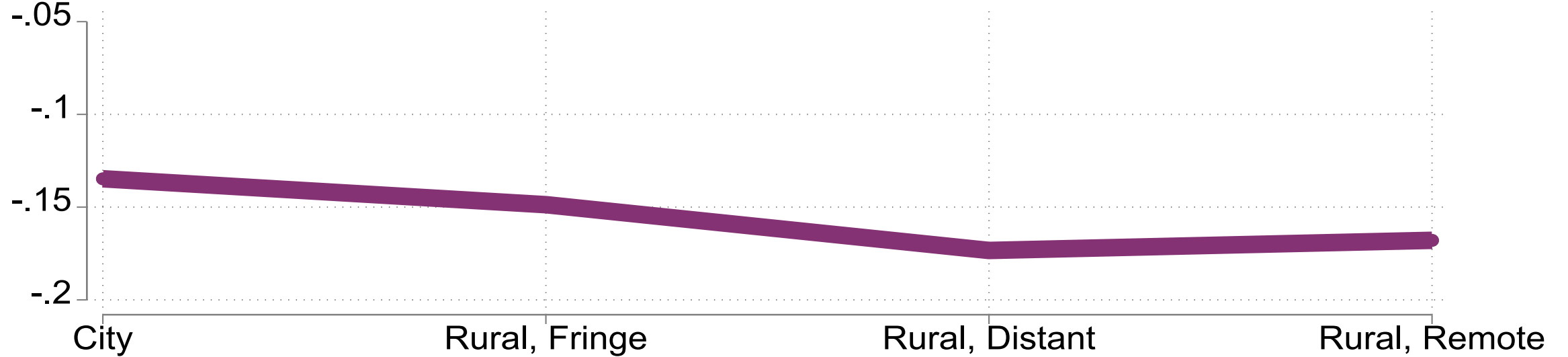
# Summary results

- Rural students have lower levels of home internet access than their urban peers.
- This difference may have influenced differences in academic progress during the 2020-2021 school year.
- The association between home internet access and academic progress was much stronger during the 2020-2021 school year, attesting to the relative importance of home internet access during the pandemic.

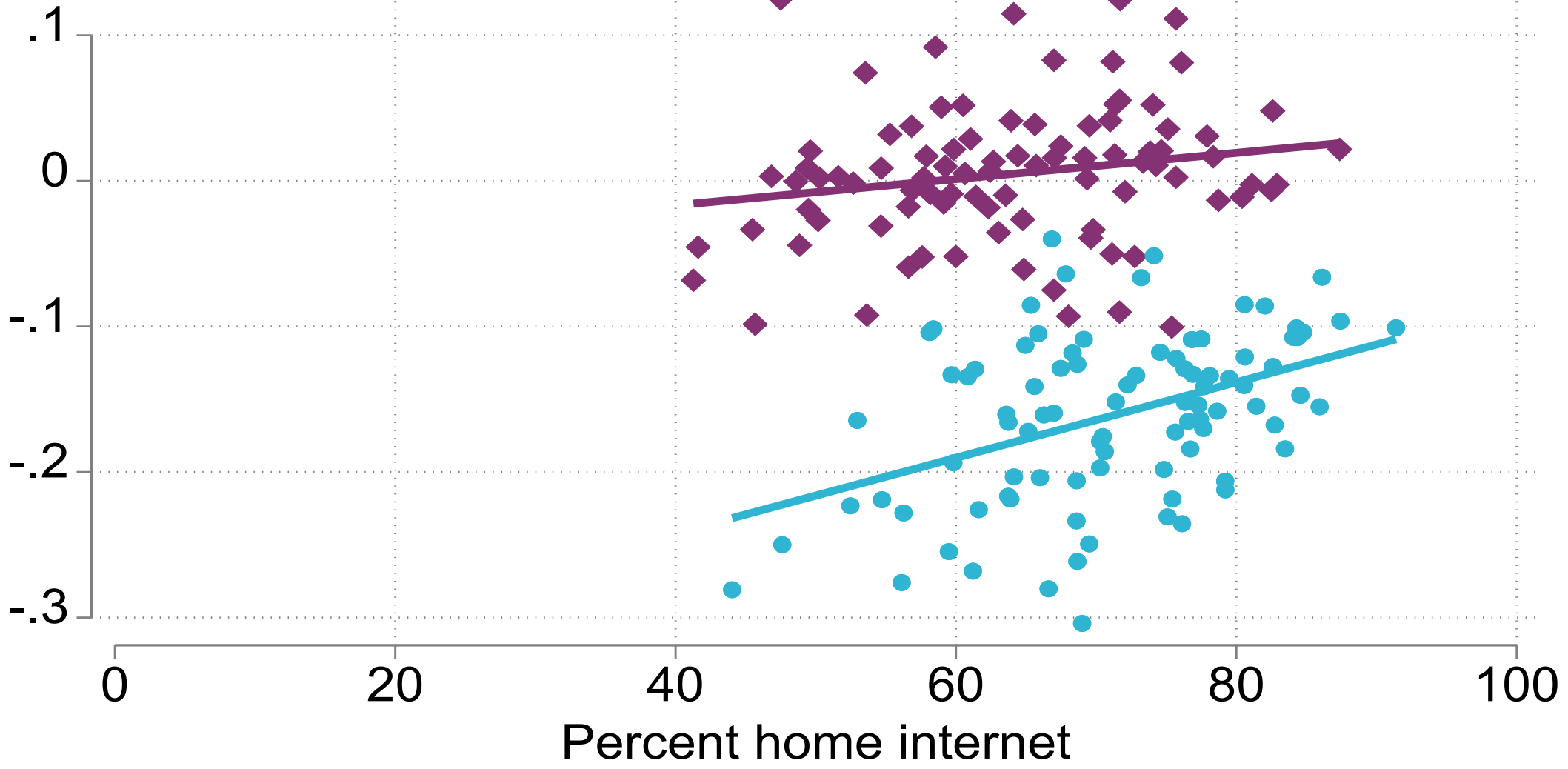
Percent home internet (2020)



Effect size (2021)



Effect size



◆ 2018 ● 2021

# Q&A

Thank you for your time and interest.  
Please see the OLR blog for more details.